

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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R 081345Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4482

UNCLAS NAIROBI 6855

FOR PAUL T. LUEBKE, A/OS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, KE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMUNITY PURCHASE OF NAIROBI
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

REF: NAIROBI 6055

1. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WHICH WAS FORMED TO INVESTIGATE
PURCHASE NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (NIS) MET AT
EMBOFF'S HOUSE AUGUST 7 TO PLAN ACTIONS NECESSARY PRIOR
TO PRESENTING PROPOSAL TO PLENARY PARENTS COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 10. DR. WARREN W. HAMILTON, DIRECTOR, NIS,
ALSO PRESENT. THREE SUBCOMMITTEES SET UP TO DEVELOP
INFORMATION RELATED TO: (A) APPRAISAL OF ASSETS;
(B) CURRENT AND PROJECTED OPERATIONAL BUDGET;
(C) OPTIONS FOR FINANCING.

2. HAMILTON, WHO RETURNED JUST LAST WEEK FROM SAN
DIEGO, NOW SEEMS FULLY SUPPORT COMMUNITY EFFORTS BUY
SCHOOL. IN DISCUSSING THIS POSSIBILITY, HE SPOKE
OF LOWER DOWN PAYMENT (UNDER 29 PERCENT) IF SCHOOL
PURCHASED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. HE THOUGHT INSTALLMENT
TERMS MIGHT RUN ROUGHLY THREE TO SEVEN YEARS. HE
SEEMED REVERT TO STARTING PRICE OF \$1 MILLION WHEN
MENTIONING THAT SAN DIEGO HAD PUT \$1 MILLION IN EXCESS
OF INCOME INTO SCHOOL, MOSTLY IN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT.
SCHOOL HAS OPERATED IN RED EVERY YEAR SINCE OPENING IN
1969, HE SAID, WITH LOSS IN 1973/75 SCHOOL YEAR ALONE
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\$250,000 PLUS. HE SAW COMMUNITY PURCHASE WITH

ATTENDANT DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AS REPRESENTING POTENTIAL
SAVING OF \$100,000 PER YEAR IN OPERATING EXPENSES.
INCLUDED IN HIS ESTIMATE WERE ELIMINATION IMPORT DUTIES
AND POSSIBILITY OF PAYING EXPARTIATE TEACHERS PARTLY
IN DOLLARS.

3. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THERE EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER FACTORS
WHICH MUST BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED BEFORE COMMUNITY PURCHASE
CAN BE CONSIDERED PRACTICABLE. AT SAME TIME THERE SEEMS
CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY SENTIMENT FOR MOVING A HEAD
RAPIDLY IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES DESPITE UNRESOLVED
QUESTION OF HOW COMMUNITY CAN MEET CERTAIN EXPECTED
COSTS INVOLVING APPRAISAL, AUDITING, AND LEGAL COUNSEL
AT PROFESSIONAL LEVEL BEYOND WHAT VOLUNTEERS CAN PROVIDE.

4. EMBASSY INTEREST IN THIS VENTURE OBVIOUS. AS OF
APRIL 18, 1975, TOTAL K-12 ENROLLMENT AT NAIROBI
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WAS 514, OF WHICH 242 WERE U.S.
CITIZENS. OF THIS TOTAL, 103 WERE CHILDREN OF U.S.
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN KENYA. ENROLLMENT FIGURES FOR
NEW SCHOOL YEAR NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS EXPECTED
THAT NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED
STUDENTS WILL REMAIN APPROXIMATELY SAME.

5. COMMITTEE SUGGESTED THAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE TO
SOUND OUT GOK ON ATTITUDE TOWARD PURCHASE. WE ARE STUDYING
POSSIBLE MODALITIES AND SUBSTANCE FOR SUCH
APPROACH. WILL CLEAR ANY APPROACH WITH DEPARTMENT
BEFORE UNDERTAKEN.
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